



**Fédération Européenne
des Médecins Salariés**
European Federation
of Salaried Doctors

Date:	23-04-2021	Document:	F21-014 EN
Title:	National Report the Netherlands		
Authors:	Ms Hanneke Verheijde, Dr Christiaan Keijzer, LAD		



To: FEMS

Regarding: Interim Report FEMS – The Netherlands
Date: April 23, 2021
From: Mrs. Hanneke Verheijde / mr. Christiaan Keijzer

Since our last meeting COVID-19 is still an actual topic in the Netherlands, as it is in most countries around the world. The situation in the hospitals is severe, and comparable with the worst period in the first wave. There is no code black yet, but hospitals prepare for the worst.

On Tuesday the 12th of April our prime minister gave a press conference about COVID. All restrictions remain the same. A week earlier the evening curfew was changed to 10.00 PM-4.30 AM (this was 9.00 PM). A month earlier all contact jobs were allowed to reopen their businesses. Non-necessary shops are partially reopened, only available for people who make appointments in advance to come to the shop. All other restrictions, reported to you in February are still intact.

On the 21st of April during another press conference he announced that starting the 28th of April the evening curfew will end, restaurants and bars can reopen until 6 PM every day, and shops can reopen without appointments. Also for students in higher education it becomes possible to have classes physically once a week.

Today on the 22nd of April the numbers are extremely high, with 9650 new positive cases since yesterday. But it seems that the pressure from society to start up life as we knew it before is huge, so the chance of the government to withdraw the new steps is small.

The numbers

Total number of cases as of **22nd of April** (confirmed by RT-PCR test): 1.43 million in total.

Number of hospitalised cases on **22nd of April**: 2.682 cases

Number of cases in Intensive Care Units on **22nd of April**: 839 cases

Number of deaths due to COVID-19 as of **22nd of April**: 16.893 in total

Number of people vaccinated as of **22nd of April**: 4.79 million

In April, Dutch hospitals reported the highest sick leave in years, since 2003, for healthcare professionals due to the constant stress and gigantic workload in hospitals for staff.



Vaccination

Vaccination started in the hospitals in January. After the first shots, also elderly and vulnerable people could make appointments for vaccination. Since last week there are extra vaccines available for hospital staff. This is necessary because many doctors and nurses are not vaccinated and left vulnerable for COVID.

Effect of COVID on collective labour agreements Academic Hospitals

Several collective labour agreements ended in 2020. Because of COVID it took a while for negotiations to start, but they have for example for the Academic Hospitals. Most important for the unions is an increase in salary to attract more healthcare professionals to the academic hospitals to deal with the shortage of staff. The employer states that this increase of salary is impossible because of the financial uncertainty that COVID brought. The employer now addressed the government to give them more funding to make this happen. Because of this standstill negotiations are likely to start again after the summer.

Also in other collective labour negotiations salary is a big topic. Smaller topics are for example facilities for working from home.